LIBRARY

HEALTH 1945 R.

Rural District of Rugby.

LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1944,

BY

H. GIBBONS WARD, M.D., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE

Warwickshire Combined Districts.

Leamington Spa:

A. TOMES LTD., PRINTERS, 46, BEDFORD STREET.

1, Milverton Hill,
Leamington Spa,
July, 1945.

To the Rugby Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Fairholme, and Gentlemen,

Herewith the Report for 1944, and it is of special personal interest to me as it marks the completion of 25 years in your service.

As instructed by the Ministry of Health, the Report is only a short statement of fact. For the first time for several years, statistics can be printed in connection with population, etc. ; it is to be hoped that in the future it will be possible to give further details when printing, paper, etc., are more available.

With many thanks for much kindness on the part of the members of the Council and my colleagues.

I am, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. GIBBONS WARD,
Medical Officer of Health.

Rugby Rural District.

A. Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

Population (estimated) Mid-year, 1944		17,290
Birth Rate		20.6
Still Births—Rate per 1,000 total births		30
Death Rate		12.2
Deaths from Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy and Child-birth	From Sepsis	—
	,, other causes	10
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—		
All Infants per 1,000 live births		28
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births		30
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births		—
Death from Measles (all ages)		—
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)		—
,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)		—

Population.—Reference to Table II. will show that there has been an increase in population of 1,720 since 1938, but a decrease of 620 from the figure in 1941, when there were many people evacuated to the District.

Birth-Rate.—In 1944 the figure of 20.6 per 1,000 of the population was the highest for many years, and compares favourably with that for England and Wales, viz., 17.6.

Death-Rate.—The rate of 12.2 per 1,000 was slightly above that for England and Wales, viz., 11.6.

Infant Mortality.—28 per 1,000 births, is well below the figure for the whole country, viz., 46.

B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

1. *Public Health Officers.*

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

L. R. Nutting, Cert. S.I.B., A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Certificates of the R.S.I. for Meat and Other Foods Inspection, and also for Smoke Inspection.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

Vacant since the 7th January, 1943.

Clerk :
P. G. Allison, on Service.
J. M. Boswell, on Service.
Temporary Clerk—Mrs. G. A. Nutting.

Surveyor :
D. G. McVinnie, M.I.M. & Cy.E.

Assistant :
H. Bonsor, M.I.M. & Cy.E.

Public Analysts :
Bostock Hill & Rigby, Birmingham

Medical Officer of Health :
H. Gibbons Ward, M.D., D.P.H.

3. *Laboratory Facilities.*—Bacteriological examinations by Birmingham University :—

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
*Diphtheria ...	5 ...	62 ...	67
Enteric Fever...	— ...	— ...	—
Tuberculosis ...	— ...	6 ...	6
			73

* These numbers include swabs from the Joint Isolation Hospital at Harborough Magna.

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

1. (i) Water Supply.—During 1944, 30 samples were taken from well supplies in the district ; 25 were chemically examined and 5 bacteriologically examined. The results were as follows :—

7 samples were classified as Safe for drinking.
16 ,, ,, ,, Unsafe ,,
6 ,, ,, ,, Suspicious ,,
1 ,, was ,, Dangerous.

In the course of the year 33 houses were connected to the water mains.

(i) Has Water Supply been Satisfactory in (*a*) Quality, (*b*) in Quantity.—As regards (*a*) the above results show the quality to be satisfactory at only a few supplies, and I feel sure that more sampling would have emphasised the need for mains extensions to every parish in the district.

(*b*) There were complaints from parts only of 3 parishes, namely, Newton, Sawbridge and Princethorpe. Water was carted to Sawbridge and Princethorpe, whilst the few houses

affected at Newton could and did obtain water from a parish pump. After the war a main will doubtless be taken to Sawbridge and at Princethorpe a mains supply has just been completed (April, 1945).

2. Where a Piped Supply, whether Bacteriological Examinations were made for (*a*) Raw Water, (*b*) Treated Water.—The piped supplies in this area are obtained in bulk from the City of Coventry and the Borough of Rugby. Both these authorities exercise control over their respective supplies at source and works, and regularly carry out tests as to purity, etc. These results have been made available for our inspection.

3. Any Action taken for Contamination.—The two water undertakers quoted above chlorinate their supplies and maintain careful check for any contamination; in addition, this authority periodically carries our flushing at the ends of the mains.

4. Particulars of Proportion of Dwelling Houses and Proportion of population supplied by Public Mains (*a*) Direct to Houses, (*b*) by means of Stand Pipes.—(*a*) Of those parishes that have piped supplies it is *estimated* that 75% of the houses taking piped supplies have it direct over the sink; and (*b*) that 25% are served by stand pipes. It should be added that use is still made of wells, etc., even in those parishes where mains are laid.

There are 23 of the 40 parishes in the district with a mains supply, and in addition another parish is partly served by a mains supply.

1. (ii) Drainage and Sewerage.—The same treatment as previously reported continues at the various disposal plants. One scheme for sewering the whole of the village of Clifton-upon-Dunsmore is almost completed, others are down for attention, and all for post-war attention. There is much work to be done under this heading, and the Council are faced with a big task in this alone in the various villages that require modern and adequate sewage disposal plants. During the year 144 visits were made to houses in connection with drainage.

2. (i) Rivers and Streams.—Observations are maintained and 102 visits were made to such watercourses. The worst case was due to a Forces establishment which seriously

overloaded the sewage disposal plant and badly polluted a watercourse that travelled through several farmers' fields. Water mains have since been laid in the village, and the farmers are now independent of the watercourse, which has also been cleaned out.

3. (ii) Closet Accommodation.—This is improved wherever possible, and 63 visits in connection with such are recorded during the year with compliance at 30 premises.

(ii) Public Cleansing.—An extension of the scheme by direct labour was carried out during the year as a result of the inability to obtain a contractor to do the work for the parishes of Churchover and Wolvey. Shortage of labour and illness of personnel interfered somewhat on occasions with the collections. At one time 60% of the men were away ill. It is difficult to obtain contractors to do this class of work,and where direct labour is employed it is equally difficult to engage men for this unattractive work.

D. HOUSING.

Full particulars of the usual table have been compiled and are being kept for Record purposes.

General Observations.—My remarks under this heading in the 1943 Report are equally applicable to-day regarding the shortage of housing accommodation. The need for new houses is greater than ever, and the Council receive many applications for houses many of which are cases of real hardship. Many temporary buildings are occupied in the District; under Defence Regulations 68AA and Circular 2156 we licence for six monthly periods 33 houses.

The Council applied for 500 prefabricated houses and have been allotted 50; the sites are already chosen for them.

A survey is to be made of the working class houses in the District as a result of the Hobhouse Report. Whilst I welcome this it is important to point out that it cannot be done unless there is an adequate staff of trained Sanitary Inspectors. The shortage of Sanitary Inspectors is such that although the Council have advertised three times for an Assistant no applications have been forthcoming. I am anxious for the survey to be carried out, but the problem of staff will first have to be solved.

Post-War Housing.—The Council have a programme of house building after the war. In the first year it is hoped to erect 68 houses, which will include those houses necessary to complete the outstanding slum clearance programme. In the ten years following the Council propose to erect 500 houses.

E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(*a*) *Milk Supply.*—Wherever possible attention is given to the improvement of the housing of the milch cows, the methods of clean milk production, and the premises for cooling and the storage of milk pending collection. During 1944 a total of 283 milk samples were taken ; none of these included samples for chemical analysis.

Resazurin Test : 200 samples, of which 133 were of good keeping quality, 45 of moderate keeping quaity, and 22 of poor keeping quality.

Methylene Blue Reductase Test : 38 samples, of which 25 were satisfactory and 13 unsatisfactory.

Pasteurised Milk, including *Phosphatase Test :* 36 samples, of which 24 were satisfactory and 12 not so, *i.e.*, high count or insufficiently pasteurised.

Biological Test for Tubercle Bacilli : Samples totalled 9, all of which were negative.

(*b*) *Meat Inspection.*—Periodical inspections are made of meatshops, vans and slaughterhouses by your Sanitary Inspector. Slaughtering of cattle for human consumption is centralised at premises outside your area during the war. In the past year it has been necessary to condemn 495lbs. of pork and pork offal, including the whole carcase of one pig, all due to tuberculous infection. For other reasons the following were condemned : 80lbs. of cooked ham, 20lbs. of sausage, 5 tins of chopped pork, 114lbs. of bacon, 1½lbs. beef, 308lbs. of fish, 12 tins of beans, 30lbs. of margarine, 2 tons 15 cwts. of peas, and 32 tins of milk.

Bakehouses.—On the whole all the bakehouses were maintained in a reasonably satisfactory condition. Half-yearly reminders are posted to them *re* cleansing.

VI. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Incidence of Commoner Infectious Diseases since 1936.

	Smallpox	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Puerperal Pyrexia.
1937 ...	—	23	62	—	40	—	8
1938 ...	—	8	27	—	35	—	2
1939 ...	—	14	43	—	23	—	3
1940 ...	—	21	44	1	24	—	2
1941 ...	—	7	30	2	25	—	2
1942 ...	—	2	17	—	17	—	7
1943 ...	—	3	33	—	13	—	1
1944 ...	—	6	19	—	27	—	—

Reference to Table III. will give the age distribution of the cases notified during 1944.

Diphtheria.—There were 6 cases notified, of which 5 were in adults and 1 in a child; in no case had the patient been immunised. All cases occurred in close priximity to Coventry.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—The campaign for the immunisation of school children commenced in 1941, and up up to the end of 1944, 1,830 children had been treated in the schools and 512 either privately or at Infant Welfare Centres, making a total of 2,342.

Scarlet Fever.—The 19 cases were distributed throughout the District. Two cases occurred in each of two families.

School Closures.—Nil.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Tuberculosis.

	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
Age—Periods	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	1	—	—	2	—	—	1	—
5	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
15	3	2	—	—	—	1	1	1
25	3	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
35	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	1
55	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	12	3	1	4	1	3	3	2

Treatment.—15 cases were admitted to Sanatorium during the year, and 11 were discharged.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

A copy of this Report has been received and kept for reference.

The summary of work done will be found in Table I.

TABLE I.

RUGBY RURAL DISTRICT.

SUMMARY OF THE WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1944.

	Inspections and Re-Visits	Notices served. Statutory.	Notices served. Informal	Nuisances Abated
Dwelling Houses and Schools ...	411	—	73	140
Roadside Cafes	34	—	—	—
Cow Sheds and Dairies	243	—	149	367
Bakehouses	45	—	42	42
Slaughter Houses, Shops and Vans	112	—	—	—
Sampling Visits (Milk Foods) ...	59	—	—	—
Milk Samples	283	—	—	—
Interviews and Appointments ...	261	—	—	—
Water Samples and Visits ...	127	1	—	—
Watercourses	102	—	5	5
Factories and Workplaces ...	69	—	5	5
Special Visits	148	—	—	—
Stables and Piggeries	2	—	—	2
Refuse Tips (Rats and Mice), &c....	56	—	—	—
Complaints	25	—	25	25
Moveable Dwellings	4	—	—	—
Infectious Disease Visits	50	—	—	—
Houses Disinfected	65	—	—	—
Verminous Houses	13	—	4	4
Petroleum Visits	6	—	—	—
Offensive Trades	1	—	—	—
Knacker Yards	2	—	—	—
Closet Accommodation	7	—	32	30
Drainage, Cesspools, &c	88	—	29	59
Dustbins	26	—	25	26
Accumulations	4	—	4	4
TOTALS	2143	1	393	709

Surrenders of Unwholesome Foods :—

Tins (Various) Foods	49
Pork and Pork Offal	495lbs.
Cooked Ham	80lbs.
Sausage	20lbs.
Bacon...	114lbs.
Beef	1½lbs.
Fish	308lbs.
Margarine	30lbs.
Peas	2 tons 15 cwts.

LESLIE R. NUTTING, Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Table II.

RUGBY RURAL DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1944 and Previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births. Nett. Number.	Births. Nett. Rate.	Nett Deaths belonging to the District. Under 1 Year of age. Number.	Nett Deaths belonging to the District. Under 1 Year of age. Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Nett Deaths belonging to the District. At all Ages. Number.	Nett Deaths belonging to the District. At all Ages. Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1938	15,570	282	17.3	24	85	194	12.0
1939	15,870	232	15.1	9	39	184	11.6
1940	16,520	209	12.6	12	56	197	11.9
1941	17,910	297	16.5	15	48	214	12.0
1942	17,560	302	17.2	13	43	179	10.2
1943	17,090	316	18.5	19	60	194	11.4
1944	17,290	355	20.6	10	28	211	12.2

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1944.

England and Wales.

Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality during the Year 1944. (*Provisional Figures*).

Annual Rate per 1,000 Population.

	Live Births	Still Births.	Deaths.	Deaths under one year to 1,000 Births.
England and Wales	17.6	0.50	11.6	46
126 Great Towns, including London	20.3	0.64	13.7	52
148 Smaller Towns	20.9	0.61	12.4	44
London	15.0	0.42	15.7	61

Table III.

RUGBY RURAL DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1944.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases notified.								Total cases removed to Hospital	Total Deaths.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.								
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.		
Small-pox										
Plague										
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	6		1		4	1			6	
Erysipelas	2					1	1			
Scarlet Fever	19		5	10	2	2			17	
Typhus Fever										
Enteric Fever										
Pneumonia	27		3	3	4	11	4	2		12
Malaria	10				1	9				
Dysentery										
Puerperal Pyrexia										
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ...	1	1								1
Poliomyelitis										
Encephalitis Lethargica ...										
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...										
Polio-Encephalitis										
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	15		1	2	5	6	1			4
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	5		2			1	2	...		5
Totals	85	1	12	15	16	31	8	2	23	22

Table IV

RUGBY RURAL DISTRICT.

Causes of Death during the Year 1944.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.
All Causes	103	108
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	—
2 Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	—
3 Scarlet Fever	—	—
4 Whooping Cough	—	—
5 Diphtheria	—	—
6 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	1	3
7 Other Forms of Tuberculosis	3	2
8 Syphilitic Diseases	1	—
9 Influenza	1	1
10 Measles	—	—
11 Ac. Polio-Myel and Polio-Enceph. ...	—	—
12 Ac. Infant Enceph.	—	—
13 Cancer of B. Cav. and Oesoph (M.) Uterus (F.)	2	3
14 Cancer of Stomach and Duod.	1	5
15 Cancer of Breast	—	3
16 Cancer, other Sites	6	10
17 Diabetes	2	1
18 Intra Cran. Vasc. Lesions...	8	13
19 Heart Disease	22	26
20 Other Dis. Circ. Sys.	3	2
21 Bronchitis	4	5
22 Pneumonia	8	4
23 Other Resp. Diseases	2	3
24 Ulcer of Stomach and Duod.	2	—
25 Diarrhoea (under 2 years)...	—	—
26 Appendicitis	—	—
27 Other Digestive Diseases	2	5
28 Nephritis	1	—
29 Puer. and Post Abort Sepsis	—	—
30 Other Maternal Causes	—	—
31 Premature Birth	1	2
32 Con. Mal., Birth Inj., etc....	5	2
33 Suicide	5	—
34 Road Traffic Accidents	7	2
35 Other Violent Causes	4	—
36 All Other Causes	11	16